To the Congress of the United States: Your assembling is clouded by a sense of public bereavement, caused by the recent and sudden death of Thomas A. Hendricks, Vice-President of the United States. His distinguished public services, his complete integrity and devotion to every duty, and his personal virtues will find honorable record in his country's history.

Ample and repeated proofs of the esteem and confidence in which he was held by his fellow-countrymen were manifested by his election to offices of the most important trust and highest dignity; and at length, full of years and honors, he has been laid at rest amid universal sorrow and benediction.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS. It is gratifying to announce that the rela-tions of the United States with all foreign powers continue to be friendly. Our position after nearly a century of successful constitutional government, maintenance of good faith in all our engagements, the avoidance of complications with other nations and our consist ent and amicable attitude toward the strong and weak alike, furnish proof of a political disposition which renders professions of good will unnecessary. There are no questions of difficulty pending with any foreign govern-

Early in March last war broke out in Central America, caused by the attempt of Guate-mala to consolidate the several States into a single government. In these contests be-tween our neighboring states the United States forbore to interfere actively, but lent the aid of their friendly offices in deprecation of war and to promote peace and concord among the belligerents, and by such counsel contributed importantly to the restoration of

tranquillity in that locality.

The interest of the United States in a practical transit for ships across the strip of land separating the Atlantic from the Pacific has been repeatedly manifested during the last half century. My immediate predecessor caused to be negotiated with Nicaragua a treaty for the construction, by and at the sole cost of the United States, of a canal through Nicaraguan territory, and laid it before the Senate. Pending the action of that body thereon, I withdrew the treaty for re-exam-Attentive consideration of its provisions leads me to withhold it from re-sub-

mission to the Senate.

In the application of the acts lately passed to execute the treaty of 1880, restrictive of the immigration of Chinese laborers into the United States, individual cases of hardship have occurred beyond the power of the Executive to remedy, and calling for judicial determination.

CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION. The inadequacy of existing legislation touching citizenship and naturalization demands your consideration. While recognizing the right of expatriation, no statutory provision exists providing means for renouncing citizenship by an American citizen, native-born, or naturalized, nor for terminating and vacating an improper acquisition of citizenship. Even a fraudulent decree of naturalization can-not now be cancelled. The privilege and franchise of American citizenship should be granted with care, and extended to those only who intend in good faith to assume its duties and responsibilities when attaining its privileges and benefits; it should be withheld from those who merely go through the forms of naturalization with the intent of escaping the duties of their original allegiance without taking upon themselves those of their new status, or who may acquire the rights of American citizenship for no other than a hostile purpose against their original governments. These evils have had many flagrant illustrations. I regard with favor the suggestion put forth by one of my predecessors that provisions be made for a central bureau of record of the decrees of naturalization granted by the various courts throughout the United States now invested with that power. The rights which spring from domicile in

the United States, especially when coupled with a declaration of intention to become a citizen, are worthy of definition by statute. ng nither with intent to re main establishing his residence in our midst, contributing to the general welfare, and byhis involuntary act, declaring his purpose to assume the responsibilities of thereby gains an inchoate status which legislation may properly define. laws of certain States and Territories admit a domiciled alien to the local franchise, conferring on him the rights of citizenship to a degree which places him in the anomalous position of being a citizen of a State and yet not of the United States within the purview of Federal and international law. It is important within the scope of national legisla-tion to define this right of alien domicile as distinguished from Federal naturalization.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES. The commercial relations of the United States with their immediate neighbors and with important areas of traffic near our shores suggest especially liberal intercourse between them and us. Following the treaty of 1883 with Mexico, which rested on the basis of a reciprocal exemption from customs duties, other similar treaties were initiated by my predecessor. Recognizing the need of less obstructed traffic with Cuba and Porto Rico, and met by the desire of Spain to succor languishing interest in the Antilles, steps were taken to attain these ends by a treaty of commerce. A similar treaty was afterward signed by the Dominican republic. quently overtures were made by her Britan-nic Majesty's government for a like mutual extension of commercial intercourse with the British West Indian and South American dependencies; but without result

THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE. I earnestly urge that Congress recast the ploma. and consular service on a footing commensurate with the importance of our national interests. At every post where a nind its equivalent will abandon the field of representative is necessary, the salary should circulation to silver alone. This, of course, be so graded as to permit him to live with comfort. With the assignment of adequate salaries the so-called notarial extraofficial fees, which our officers abroad are now permitted to treat as personal perguisites, should be done away with. Every act requiring the certification and scal of the officer should be taxable at schedule rates, and the fee therfore returned to the treasury. By restoring these revenues to the public use the consular service would be self-supporting, even with a liberal increase of the present low salaries. In further prevention of abuses system of consular inspection should be

The report of the secretary of the treasury fully exhibits the condition of the public finances and of the several branches of the government connected with the department. the practical operations of this important de-partment, and his recommendations in the direction of simplification and economy, particularly in the work of collecting customs duties, are especially urged upon the attention of Congress.

The ordinary receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1885, were \$322,690,706.38. Of this sum \$181,471,939.34 was received from customs and \$112,498,725.54 from internal revenue. The total receipts, as given above, were \$24,829,163.54 less than those for the year ended June 30, 1884. This diminution embraces a falling off of \$13,595,-550.42 in the receipts from customs and \$9,687,346.97 in the receipts from internal rev-

The total ordinary expenditures of the government for the fiscal year were \$260,226,935.50, leaving a surplus in the treasury at the close of the year of \$63,463,771.27. This is \$40,929,854.32 less than the surplus reported at the close of the previous year.

THE TARIFF. The fact that our revenues are in excess of the actual needs of an economical administration of the government justifies a reduction in the amount exacted from the people for its support. Our government is but the means established by the will of a free people. by which certain principles are applied which they have adopted for their benefit and protection; and it is never better administered and its true spirit is never better observed than when the people's taxation for its sup-port is scrupulously limited to the actual ne-cessity of expenditure, and distributed according to a just ond equitable plan.

The proposition with which we have to

deal is the reduction of the revenue received by the government, and indirectly paid by the people from customs duties. The question of free trade is not involved, nor is there now any occasion for the general discussion of the wisdom or expediency of a protective system. modification of our present laws relating to revenue, the industries and interests which have been encouraged by such laws, and in which our officers have laws and interests to the manneau centers of Europe, and, in conjunction with our ministers to England, France and Germany, to obtain a full knowledge of the attitude and intent of those governments in respect of the estab-Justice and fairness dictate that in any couraged by such laws, and in which our citizens have large investments, should not be ruthlessly injured or destroyed. We should also deal with the subject in such

manner as to protect the interests of American labor, which is the capital of our workingmen: its stabilty and proper remuneration furnish the most justifiable pretext for a protective policy. Within these limitations a certain reduction should be made in our customs revenue. The amount of such reduction having been determined, the inquiry follows where can it best be remitted and what articles can best be released from duty, in the interest of our citizens? I think the reduction should be made in the revenue derived from a tax upon the imported necessaries of life. We thus directly lessen the cost of living in every family of the land, and release to the people in every humble home a larger measure of the rewards of frugal industry. THE SILVER QUESTION.

needed for a sufficient circulating medium.

the perversion of this power. The necessity for such an addition to the silver currency of

the nation as is compelled by the silver-coin-

age act, is negatived by the fact that up to the present time only about fifty millions

of the silver dollars so coined have actually found their way into circulation,

leaving more than one hundred and sixty-five

milions in the possession of the government, the custody of which has entailed a consid-

erable expense for the construction of vaults

for its deposit. Against this latter amount there are outstanding silver certificates

amounting to about ninety-three millions of

Every month two millions of gold in the

public treasury are paid out for two millions

or more of silver dollars, to be added to the

idle mass already accumulated. If continued

long enough, the operation will result in the

substitution of silver for all the gold the

government owns applicable to its general

purposes. It will not do to rely upon the

customs receipts of the government to make good this drain of gold, because the silver thus coined having been make legal-

tender for all debts and dues, public and pri-

vate, at times during the last six months fifty-

eight per cent, of the receipts for duties have

been in silver or silver certificates, while the

average within that period has been twenty

certificates received by the government will

probably increase as time goes on, for the

reason that the nearer the period approaches when it will be obliged to offer silver in pay-

ment of its obligations, the greater induce-ment there will be to hoard gold against de-

preciation in the value of silver, or for the

purpose of speculating.

The hoarding of gold has already begun.

When the time comes that gold has been withdrawn from circulation, then will

hetween

be apparent the difference between the real value of the silver dollar and a dollar in gold, and the two coins will part company. Gold, still the standard of

value, and necessary in our dealings with oth-

er countries, will be at a premium over silver;

banks which have substituted gold for the de posits of their customers may pay them with silver bought with such gold, thus making a

handsome profit; rich speculators will sell

their hoarded gold to their neighbors who

need it to liquidate their foreign debts, at a

ruinous premium over silver, and the laboring men and women of the land, most de-

fenceless of all, will find that the dollar re-

ceived for the wage of their toil has sadly

shrunk in its purchasing power. It may be

said that the latter result will be but tempor-

ary, and that ultimately the price of labor will

be adjusted to the change; but even if this

takes place, the wage worker cannot possibly gain but must inevitably lose, since the price he

is compelled to pay for his living will not only

be measured in a coin heavily depreciated.

and fluctuating and uncertain in its value,

but this uncertainty in the value of the pur-

chasing medium will be made the pretext for

an advance in prices beyond that justified by

The words uttered in 1834 by Daniel Web-

ster in the Senate of the United States are true to-day: "The very man of all others

who has the deepest interest in a sound cur-

rency, and who suffers most by mischievous legislation in money matters, is the man who

most distinguished advocate of bi-metalism, discussing our silver coinage, has lately written; "No American citizen's hand has

yet felt the sensation of cheapness, either in receiving or expending the Silver-

Act dollars." And those who live by labor

or legitimate trade will never feel that sensa-

or legitimate trade will never feet that sensa-tion of cheapness. However plenty silver dollars may become, they will not be distrib-uted as gifts among the people; and if the laboring man should receive four depreciated dollars where he now receives but two, he

will pay in the depreciated coin more than

double the price he now pays for all the nec-cessaries and comforts of life.

Those who do not fear any disastrous con-

sequences arising from the continued compul-sory coinage of silver as now directed by law,

and who suppose that the addition to the cur-

rency of the country intended as its result, will be a public benefit, are reminded that

history demonstrates that the point is easily reached in the attempt to float at the same time two sorts of money of different excellence, when the better will cease to be in general circulation. The hoarding of gold,

which has already taken place, indicates that

we shall not escape the usual experience in such cases. So, if this silver coinage be con-

must produce a severe contraction of our cir-culating medium, instead of adding to it.

the part of the government to cause the cir-

culation of silver dollars worth eighty cents,

side by side with gold dollars worth 100 cents,

even within the limit that legislation does not

run counter to laws of trade, to be successful

must be seconded by the confidence of the people that both coins will retain the same purchasing power and be interchangable at will. A special effort has been made by the secretary of the treasury to

increase the amount of our silver coin in cir-

culation; but the fact that a large share of

the limited amount thus put out has soon re-

turned to the public treasury in payment of

duties, leads to the belief that the people do

not now desire to keep it in hand; and this, with the evident disposition to hoard gold, gives rise to the suspicion that there already exists a lack of confidence among the people touching our financial pro-

now in circulation to cause uneasiness; and

the whole amount coined and now on hand

might, after a time, be absorbed by the peo-ple without apprehension; but it is the cease-less stream that threatens to overflow the

land which causes fear and uncertainty.
What has been thus far submitted upon

this subject relates almost entirely to consid-

erations of a home nature, unconnected with

the bearing which the policies of other nations

have upon the question. But it is perfectly

apparent that a line of action in regard to our

currency cannot wisely be settled upon or per-

sisted in, without considering the attitude

is found in the act by virtue of which our silver is compulsorily coined. It provides that

the President shall invite the governments

of the countries composing the Latin Union,

so called, and of such other European nations

as he may deem advisable, to join the United

States in a conference to adopt a common ratio

between gold and silver for the purpose of establishing internationally the use of bi-me-

tallic money and securing fixity of relative

similar fate has awaited all subsequent efforts in the same direction. And still we continue

our coinage of silver at a ratio different from that of any other nation. The most vital

part of the silver-coinage act remains inopera-

ive and unexecuted, and, without an ally or

friend, we battle upon the silver field in an

To give full effect of the design of Congress

on this subject I have made a careful and

earnest endeavor since the adjournment of

the last Congress. To this end I delegated a gentleman well instructed in fiscal science, to

proceed to the financial centers of Europe,

By my direction our consul-general at Paris

This conference absolutely failed,

maintain

commerce,

An acknowledgment of this fact

countries

inter

subject of other

we

There is certainly not enough silver

cesses.

the on

course

whom

through

value between these metals.'

illogical and losing contest.

It will not be disputed that any attempt on

earns his daily bread by his daily toil."

actual depreciation.

per cent. The proportion of silver and it

subject with other nations. In the meantime we are accumulating silver coin, based upon our own peculiar ratio, to such an extent, and assuming so heavy a burden to be provided for in any internation-Nothing more important than the present al negotiations, as will render us an undesiracondition of our currency and coininge car claim your attention. Since February, 1878

ble party to any future monetary conference the government has, under the compulsory It is a significant fact that four of the five provisions of law, purchased silver bullion and coined the same at the rate of more countries composing the Latin Union mentioned in our coinage act, embarrassed with than \$2,000,000 every month. By this process up to the present date 215,759,431 silver dollars have been coined. A reasonatheir silver currency, have just completed an agreement among themselves, that no more silver shall be coined by their respective govole appreciation of a delegation of power ernments, and that such as has been already coined and in circulation shall be redeemed in gold by the country of its coinage. The to the general government would limit its exercise without express restrictive words to the people's needs and the requirements of the public. Upon this theory and authority to "coin money" given to Congress by the Constitution, if it permits the purchase by the government of bullion for coinage in any event, does not justify such purchase and resort to this expedient by these countries may well arrest the attention of those who suppose that we can succeed without shock or injury, in the attempt to circulate upon its merits, all the silver we may coin under event, does not justify such purchase and coinage to an extent beyond the amount the provision of our silver coinage act. The desire to utilize the silver product of the country should not lead to a misuse or

to indicate our interest in its objects and re-

It may be said, in brief, as the result of

powers remains substantially unchanged since

be questioned that the views of these govern

ments are in each instance supported by the weight of public opinion. The steps thus

taken have therefore only more fully demon-

strated the uselessness of further attempts at

present, to arrive at any agreement on the

the monetary conference of 1881, nor is it to

The condition in which our treasury may be placed by a persistence in our present course, is a matter of concern to every patri-otic citizen who does not desire his govern-ment to pay in silver such of its obligations as should be paid in gold. Nor should our condition be such as to oblige us, in a prudent nanagement of our affairs, to discontinue the calling in and payment of interest-bearing obligations, which we have the right now to discharge and thus avoid the payment of further interest thereon.

The so-called debtor class, for whose benefithe continued compulsory coinage of silver is insisted upon, are not dishonest because they are in debt; and they should not be suspected of a desire to jeopardize the financial safety f the country, in order that they may cance their present debts by paying the same in de-preciated dollars. Nor should it be forgotten that it is not the rich nor the money-lender alone that must submit to such a readjust ment, enforced by the government and their debtors. The pittance of the widow and the orphan and the incomes of helpless bene ficiaries of all kinds would be disas trously reduced. The depositors in savings banks and in other institutions which hold in trust the savings of the poor, when their little ccumulations are scaled down to meet the new order of things, would, in their distress, painfully realize the delusion of the promise made to them that plentiful money would improve their condition.

We have now on hand all the silver dollars necessary to supply the present needs of the people and to satisfy those who from sentiment wish to see them in circulation; and if their coinage is suspended they can be readily obtained by all who desire them. If the need of more is at any time apparent their coinage

may be renewed. That disaster has not already overtaken us furnishes no proof that danger does not wait upon a continuation of the present silver coinage. We have been saved by the most careful management and unusual expedients, by a combination of fortunate conditions, and y a confident expectation that the course of he government in regard to silver coinage would be speedily changed by the action of Congress.

Prosperity hesitates upon our threshold because of the dangers and uncertainties surrounding this question. Capital timidly shrinks from trade, and investors are unwilling to take the chance of the questionable shape in which their money will be returned to them, while enterprise halts at a risk against which care and sagacious manage-

ment do not protect. As a necessary consequence labor lacks em ployment, and suffering and distress are visited upon a portion of our fellow-citizens especially entitled to the careful consideration of those charged with the duties of legislalation. No interest appeals to us so strongly for a safe and stable currency as the vast

rmy of unemployed.

1 recommend the suspension of the compulsory coinage of silver dollars directed by the law passed in February, 1878.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT. The report of the secretary of war is herewith submitted. The attention of Congress is invited to the detailed account which it contains of the administration of his department, and his recommendations and suggestions for

the improvement of the service. THE NAVY. The report of the secretary of the navy gives a history of the operations of his depart

ment and the present condition of the work committed to his charge. He details in full the course pursued by him to protect the rights of the government in re-spect of certain vessels unfinished at the time of his accession to office, and also concerning the despatch boat Dolphin, claimed to be completed and awaiting the acceptance of the department. No one can fail to see from recitals contained report that only the application of business principles has been insisted upon in the treatment of these subjects, and that whatever controversy has arisen was caused by the exaction on the part of the department of contract obligations as they were legally con-

strued. All must admit the importance of an effective navy to a nation like ours, having such an extended sea coast to protect. And yet we have not a single vessel of war that could keep the seas against a first-class vessel of any important power. Such a condition ought not longer to continue. The nation that cannot resist aggression is constantly exposed to it. Its foreign policy is of necessity weak, and its negotiations are conducted disadvantages, because it is not in condition to enforce the terms dictated by its sense of

right and justice, Inspired as I am by the hope, shared by all patriotic citizens, that the day is not very far distant when our navy will be such as befits our standing among the nations of the earth, and rejoiced at every step that leads in the direction of such a consummation, I deem it my duty to especially direct the attention of Congress to the close of the report of the secretary of the navy, in which the humiliating weakness of the present organization of his department is exhibited, and the startling abuses and waste of its present methods are exposed. The conviction is forced upon us with certainty of mathematical demonstration, that before we proceed further in the restoration of a navy we need a thoroughly reorganized navy department. The fact that within seventeen years more than \$75,000,000 have been spent in the construction, repair, equipment, and armament of vessels, and the further fact that, instead of an effective and and apprehension of a nation undefended by made, do not permit us to doubt that every attempt to revive our navy has thus far, for the most part, been misdirected, and all our efforts in that direction have been little better

than blind gropings and expensive, aimless Unquestionably if we are content with the maintenance of a navy department simply as a shabby ornament to the government, a constant watchfulness may prevent some of the scandal and abuse which have found their way into our present organization, and its incurable waste may be reduced to the mini-But if we desire to build ships for present usefulness instead of naval reminders of the days that are past, we must have a department organized for the work, supplied with all the talent and ingenuity our country affords, prepared to take advantage of the experience of other nations, systematized so that all effort shall unite and lead in one direction, and fully imbued with the conviction that war vessels, though new, are useless unless they combine all that the ingenuity of man has up to this day brought forth relating to their construc-

I carnestly commend the portion of the sec retary's report devoted to this subject to the attention of Congress, in the hope that his suggestions touching the reorganization of his department may be adopted as the first step toward the reconstruction of our navy. THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The affairs of the postal service are exhibited by the report of the postmaster-general, which will be laid before you. I approve the recommendation of the post-master-general to reduce the charges on domestic money orders of five dollars and less from eight to five cents. This change will ty, but to whom the element of cheapness is of the greatest importance. With this reducof the greatest importance. tion the system would still remain self-sup-

porting. I approve the recommendation of the postmaster-general that another assistant be provided for his department. I invite your con-

sideration to the several other recommendahas given close attention to the proceedings tions contained in his report. of the Congress of the Latin Union, in order

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. The report of the attorney-general contains history of the conduct of the department of justice during the last year, and a number of these efforts, that the attitude of the leading valuable suggestions as to needed legislation; and I invite your careful attention to the

The present mode of compensating United

States marshals and district attorneys should in my opinion be changed. They are allowed to charge against the government certain fees for services, their income being measured by the amount of such fees within a fixed limit as to their annual aggregate. This is a direct inducement for them to make their fees in criminal cases as large as possible in an effort to reach the maximum sum permitted. As an entirely natural consequence, unscrupulous marshals are found encouraging frivolous prosecutions, arresting people on petty charges of crime and transporting them to distant places for examination and trial, for the purpose of earning mileage and other fees. And district attorneys uselessly attend criminal examinations far from their places of residence for the express purpose of swelling their accounts against the government. The actual expenses incurred in these transactions are also charged against the government. Thus the rights and freedom of our citizens are outraged and public expenditures increased for the purpose of furnishing public officers pretexts for increasing the measure of their compensation. I think marshals and district attorneys should be paid salaries adjusted by a rule which will make them commensurate with services fairly rendered.

THE INDIANS.

The report of the secretary of the interior, containing an account of the operations of this important department, and much interesting information will be submitted for your

consideration. The most intricate and difficult subject in charge of this department is the treatment and management of the Indians. I am satisfiel that some progress may be noted in their condition as a result of a prudent administration of the present laws and regulations for their control.

But it is submitted that there is lack of a fixed purpose or policy on this subject which should be supplied. It is useless to dilate upon the wrongs of the Indians, and as use-less to indulge in the heartless belief that because their wrongs are revenged in their own atrocious manner, therefore they should be e.cterminated.

They are within the care of our gor ment, and their rights are, or should be, pro tected from invasion by the most solemn of gations. They are properly enough called the wards of the government: and it should be borne in mind that this guardianship involves, on our part, efforts for the improve-ment of their condition and the enforcement of their rights. There seems to be general concurrence in the proposition that the ultimate object of their treatment should be their civilization and citizenship. Fitted by these to keep pace in the march of progress with the advanced civilization about them, they will readily assimilate with the mass of our population, assuming the responsibilities and receiving the protection incident to this condition. The difficulty appears to be in the selection of the means to be at present employed toward the attainment of this result.

The history of all the progress which has been made in the civilization of the Indian, I think, will disclose the fact that the beginning has been religious teaching, followed by or accompanying secular education. While the self-sacrificing and pious men and women who have aided in this good work by their independent endeavor have for their reward the beneficent results of their labor and the consciousness of Christian duty well per-formed, their valuable services should be fully acknowledged by all who under the law are charged with the control and management of our Indian wards.

What has been said indicates that in tht present condition of the Indians, no attempshould be made to apply a fixed and unyielding plan of action to their varied and varying

needs and circumstances.

The Indian bureau, burdened as it is with their general oversight and with the details establishment, can hardly possess itself of the minute phases of the particular cases needing treatment; and thus the propriety of creating an instrumentality auxiliary to

those already established for the care of the Indians suggests itself. I recommend the passage of a law authorizing the appointment of six commissioners, three of whom shall be detailed from the army, to be charged with the duty of a careful inspection from time to time of all the Indians upon our reservations or subject to the care and control of the government, with a view of discovering their exact condition and needs, and determining what steps shall be taken on behalf of the government to improve their situation in the direction of their selfsupport and complete civilization; that they ascertain from such inspection what, if any, of the reservations may be reduced in area, and in such cases what part, not needed for Indian occupation, may be purchased by the government from the Indians and disposed of for their benefit; what, if any, Indians may, with their consent, be removed to other reservations, with a view of their concentra tion and the sale on their behalf of their abandoned reservations; what Indian should lands now held in common be allotted in severalty; in what manner and to what extent the Indians upon the reservations can be placed under the protection of our laws and subjected to their penalties; and which, if any, Indians should be invested with the right of citizenship. The

powers and functions of the commissioners in regard to these subjects should be clearly defined, though they should, in conjunction with the secretary of the interior, be given all the authority to deal definitely with the questions presented, deemed safe and con-THE PUBLIC LANDS. It is not for the "common benefit of the United States" that a large area of the public lands should be acquired, directly or through fraud, in the hands of a single indi-The nation's strength is in the peo-

ple. The nation's prosperity is in their prosperity. The nation's glory is in the equality of her justice. The nation's perpetuity is in the patriotism of all her people. Hence, as far as practicable, the plan adopted in the disposal of the public lands should have in view the original policy, which encourages many purchasers of these lands for homes and discouraged the massing of large areas. Exclusive of Alaska, about threeareas. Exclusive of Alaska, about three-fifths of the national domain has been sold or have much to do with the practical usefulness subjected to contract or grant. Of the remaining two-fifths a considerable portion is plication. either mountain or desert. A rapidly inc.easing population creates a growing de-mand for homes, and the accumulation of wealth inspires an eager competition to obtain the public land for speculative purposes. In the future this collision of interests will be more marked than in the past, and the execu-tion of the nation's trust in behalf of our settlers will be more difficult. I therefore commend to your attention the recommendations contained in the report of the secretary of the

PENSIONS. It appears from the report of the commis sioner of pensions that there were, on July 1, 1885, 345, 125 persons borne upon the pension rolls, who were classified as follows: Army invalids, 241,456; widows, minor children and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers, 78,841; navy invalids, 2,745; navy widows, minor children and dependents, 1,926; survivors of the war of 1812, 2,945; and widows of those who served in that war, 17,212. About one man in ten of all those enlisted in the late war are reported as receiving pensions, exclusive of the dependents of deceased soldiers. On July 1, 1875, the number of pensioners was 234,821, and the increase within the ten years next thereafter was 110,304.

While there is no expenditure of the public funds which the people more cheerfully approve than that made in recognition of the services of our soldiers living and dead, the sentiment underlying the subject should not be vitiated by the introduction of any fraudulent practices. Therefore it is fully as important that the rolls should be cleansed of all those who by fraud have secured a place thereon, as that meritorious claims should be specially examined and adjusted. The reforms in the methods of doing the business of this bureau which have lately been inaugur-

the country. For the year ended June 30, 1885, the applications for patents, including reissues, and for the registration of tradematerially aid those of our people who nost of all avail themselves of this instrumentality, but to whom the element of cheapness is of the greatest importance. With this reduction of the greatest importance. With this reduction of the greatest importance. issued in the year 1885 was 14,387. ceipts during the last fiscal year were \$1,074,- so much of motive to sentiment and action, 974.35, and the total expenditures, not includit is not fair to hold public officials in ing contingent expenses, \$934,123.11. | charge of important public trusts, responsible for the best results in the per-

pending on July 1,1884, and 5,786 on the same date in the year 1885. There has been con-siderable improvement made in the prompt determination of applications, and a conse quent relief to expectant inventors.

THE MORMON QUESTION. In the Territory of Utah the law of the United States passed for the suppression of polygamy has been energetically and faithfully executed during the past year, with measurably good results. A number of convictions have been secured for unlawful cohabitation, and in some cases pleas of guilty have been entered and a slight punishment imposed, upon a promise by the accused that they would not again offend against the law, nor advise, counsel, aid, or abet, in any way, The Utah commissioners express the opin-

able to obtain, that but few polygamous marriages have taken place in the Territory during the last year. They further report that while there cannot be found upon the registration lists of voters the name of a man actually guilty of polygamy, and while none of the class are holding office, yet at the last election in the Territory the officers elected except in county were men who, though actually living in the practice of polygamy, subscribe to the doctrine of polygamous mar-riages as a divine revelation and a law unto all, higher and more binding upon the con-science than any human law, local or national. Thus is a strange spectacle presented of a community protected by a Republican form of government, to which they owe allegiance sustaining by their suffrages a principle and a belief which sets at naught that obligation of absolute obedience to the law of the land which lies at the foundation of Republican institutions.

The strength, the perpetuity, and the destiny of the nation rest upon our homes, es-tablished by the law of God, guarded by parental care, regulated by parental authority, and sanctified by parental love. These are not the homes of polygamy. The mothers of our land, who rule the nation as they mold the characters and guide the actions of their sons, live according to God's holy ordinances, and each, secure and happy in the exclusive love of the father of her children, sheds the warm light of true womanhood, unperverted and unpolluted, upon all with her pure and wholesome family circle. These are not the cheerless, crushed, and unwoman-

ly mothers of polygamy.

The fathers of our families are the best citizens of the republic. Wife and children are the sources of patriotism, and conjugal and parental affection beget devotion to the country. The man who, undefiled with plural marriage, is surrounded in his single home with his wife and children, has a stake in the country which inspires him with respect for

its laws and courage for its defence. These are not the fathers of polygamous families.

There is no feature of this practice, or the system which sanctions it, which is not opposed to all that is of value in our institutions There should be no relaxation in the firm but just execution of the law now in operation, and I should be glad to approve such further discreet legislation as will rid the country of this blot upon its fair name. Since the people upholding polygamy in our Territories are re-enforced by immigration from other lands, I recommend that a law be passed to prevent the importation of Mormons into the country.

AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural interest of the country demands just recognition and liberal encourgement. It sustains with certainty and unfailing strength our nation's prosperity by the product of its steady toil, and bears its full share of the burden of taxation without complaint. Our agriculturists have but slight personal representation in the councils of the nation, and are generally content with the humbler duties of citizenship and willing to trust to the bounty nature for a reward of their labor. But the nagnitude and value of this industry is appreciated, when the statement is made that our total annual exports more than threefourths are the products of agriculture, and of our total population nearly one-half are exclusively engaged in that occupation.

The department of agriculture was created for the purpose of acquiring and diffusing among the people useful information respect-ing the subjects it has in charge, and aiding in the cause of intelligent and progressive farming, by the collection of statistics, by testing the value and usefulness of new seeds and plants, and distributing such as are found desirable among agriculturists. This and other powers and duties with which this department is invested are of the utmost importance, and if wisely exercised must be of great benefit to the country. The aim of our beneficent government is the improvement of the people in every station, and the amelioration of their condition. Surely our agriculturists should not be neglected. The instruturists should not be neglected. mentality established in aid of the farmers of the land should not only be well equipped for the accomplishment of its purpose, but those for whose benefit it has been adopted should be encouraged to avail themselves fully of its

advantages. The prohibition of the importation into several countries of certain of our animals and their products, based upon the suspicion that health is endangered in their use and comsumption, suggests the importance of such precautions for the protection of our stock of all kinds against disease, as will disarm suspicion of danger and cause the removal of such an injurious prohibition.

If the laws now in operation are insufficient to accomplish this protection, I recommend their amendment to meet the necesities of the situation, and I commend to the consideration of Congress the suggestions contained in the report of the commissioner of agriculture calculated to increase the value and efficacy of this department.

THE CIVIL SERVICE. The report of the civil service commission, which will be submitted, contains an account of the manner in which the civil service law has been executed during the last year, and much valuable information on this important

I am inclined to think that there is no sentiment more general in the minds of the people of our country than a conviction of the correctness than a conviction of the correctness of the principle upon which the law enforcing civil service reform is based. In its present condition the law regulates only a part of the subordinate public positions throughout the country. It applies the test of fitness to applicants for these places by means of a competitive examination, and gives large discre-tion to the commissioners as to the character of the examination and many other matters connected with its execution. Thus the rules

The people may well trust the commission to execute the law with perfect fairness and with as little irritation as possible. But of course no relaxation of the principle which underlies it and no wakening of the safeguards which surround it can be expected. Experience in its administration will probably suggest amendment of the methods of execution, but I venture to hope that we shall never again be remitted to the system which distributes puq-

the interior with reference to the repeal and lic positions purely as rewards for modification of certain of our land laws. tained whether our government could survive the strain of a continuance of this system, which upon every change of an administration inspires an immense army of claimants for office to lay siege to the of government, engrossing the time of the public officers with their importunities, spreading abroad the contagion of their disappointment and filling this air with the tumult of their discontent.

The allurements of an immense number of offices and places, exhibited to the voters of the land, and the promise of their bestowal in recognition of partisan activity, debauch the suffrage and rob political action of its thoughtful and deliberative character. The evil would increase with the multiplication of offices consequent upon our extension, office-holding the mania for growing from its. indulgence, pervade our population so generally that patriotic purpose, the support of principle, the desire for the public good and solicitude for the nation's welfare would nearly banished from the activity of our party contests and cause them to degenerate into ignoble, selfish and disgraceful struggles for the possession of office and public place.

Civil-service reform enforced by law came ated promise better results in both these di-rections.

| alization. One of its effects, not enough re-garded, is the freedom it brings to the politi-The operations of the patent office demonstrate the activity of the inventive genius of the country. For the year ended lyne 30 the country and sudden change in Parties seem to be necessary, and will long continue to exist; nor can it be now denied that there are legitimate advantages, not disconnected with office holding, which follow party supremacy. While partisanship con-The re- tinues bitter and pronounced, and supplies

formance of their duties, and yet insist that they shall rely, in confidential and important places, upon the work of those not only op-posed to them in political affiliation, but so teeped in partisan prejudice and rancor that they have no loyalty to their chiefs and no desire for their success. Civil service reform does not exact this, nor does it require that those in subordinate posi-tions who fail in yielding their best service, or who are incompetent, should be retained simply because they are in place. The whining of a clerk discharged for indolence or incompetency, who, though he gained his place by the worst possible operation of the spoils system, suddenly discovers that he is entitled to protection under the sanction of civil service reform, represents an idea no less absurd than the clamor of the applicant who claims the vacant position as his compensation for

ion, based upon such information as they are the most questionable party work.

The civil service law does not prevent the discharge of the indolent or incompetent clerk, but it does prevent supplying his place with the unfit party worker. Thus, in both these phases, is seen benefit to the public service. And the people who desire good gov ernment having secured this statute will not relinquish its benefits without protest. Nor are they unmindful of the fact that its full advantages can only be gained through the complete good faith of those having its execution in charge. And this they will insist

I recommend that the salaries of the civil service commissioners be increased more nearly sum mensurate to their important duties.

SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY. The present condition of the law relating to the succession to the presidency in the event of the death, disability, or removal of both the President and Vice-President is such as to require immediate amendment. ect has repeatedly been considered by Conress, but no result has been reac recent lamentable death of the Vice President, and vacancies at the same ime in all other offices the incumbents of which might immediately exercise the functions of the presidential office, has caused public anxiety and a just demand that a re-currence of such a condition of affairs should not be permitted.

In conclusion, I commend to the wise care and thoughtful attention of Congress the needs, the welfare, and the aspira-tions of an intelligent and gener-ous nation. To subordinate these to the narrow advantages of partisanship, or the accomplishment of selfish aims, is to violate the people's trust and betray the people's interests. But an individual sense of responsi-bility on the part of each of us, and a stern determination to perform our duty well, must give us place among those who have aided in their day and generation to the glory and prosperity of our beloved land.

GROVER CLEVELAND. WASHINGTON, December 8, 1885.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Figures of Interest from Commission er Sparks' Report.

Commissioner Wm. A. J. Sparks, of the general land office, in his annual report places the sales, entries, and selections of public land during the last fiscal year at 20,-113,663.37 acres and of Indian lands 881.850.21 acres, making a total of 20,995,513.58 acres, being a decrease, as compared with the year 1884, of 6,535,566.41 acres, and an increase over the year 1883 of 1,535,40.78 acres.

The receipts from the disposals of public lands are \$7,686,114.80; from sales of Indian lands, \$933,483.52; a total of \$8,619,598.32, being a decrease, as compared with the year 1884, of \$4,159,532.01, and with 1883 of \$3, 086,167.33, to which is to be added \$8,821.86 for certified copies of records furnished by the general land office, making the total receipts for the year from all sources \$8,628,

The commissioner reports that the vast ma-chinery of the land department appears to have been devoted to conveying the lands of the United States upon fraudulent entries under strained constructions of the imperfect land laws and upon illegal claims under pub-lic and private grants. He also charges that vise and speedy measures should be adopted for the preservation of the forests. The commissioner also recommends that the Homestead law be so amended as to provide that the public lands of the United States. other than mineral and reserved timber lands, shall be disposed of only under its pro-visions, and that these be strengthened to secure actual inhabitancy, improvement and cultivation, as precedent conditions to the acquisition of any rights there under, and absolutely prohibiting and rendering nugatory for any purpose whatever any sale or transfer of the homestead privilege, or of any title derived or to be derived thereunder prior to the issue of patent. The law should provide for substantial and not merely pro forma proofs, and applications and proofs should not be permitted to be made before any other officer than the land officers of the United States.

ARMY AFFAIRS.

Resume of the Annual Report of

Secretary Endicott, In submitting his annual report to the President Secretary Endicott states the expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1885, at \$45,850,999.54. He estimates the next fiscal year at \$48,204,183, reduced from a schedule presented to him which called for nearly double the amount. At last reports from the lieutenant-general the army consisted of 2,154 officers and 24,705 enlisted men. He then gives in detail the operations of the troops on the frontier. The Oklahoma country was freed from invaders without bloodshed, and the effect has been to restore quiet among the Indians. Other slight disturbances among the Indian tribes of Arizona and New Mexico were easily quelled by the presence of troops. He commends to the consideration of the President the policy of concentrating troops and putting large garri-sons in the vicinity of large cities as a measure of economy, the present railroad facilities being ample to transport them to the frontier speedily when needed.

The acting judge-advocate-general reports 2,328 courts-martial during the year and 674

convictions for desertion.

Attention is called to the defenceless condition of our seacoast and lake frontier. Estimates under this head have been restricted to the sum required for the repair and modification of existing works and torpedoes for harbor defense, but a short appropriation does not allow the department to do more than place in serviceable condition the heavy guns and mortars in the harbors.

Mention is made of the Grant relics presented to the government by Mrs. Grant at the request of Mr. Vanderbilt. These are now stored in the war department, where they will remain until Congress officially accepts the gift and directs what disposition shall be made of it. In conclusion Mr. Endicott asks that Con-

gress provide for an assistant secretary of war, as there is no officer in the department, as now organized, who can assist the secretary in his duties and act in his absence.

LAKE DISASTERS.

A Year's Record of the Number of Vessels and Lives Lost

The table of disasters to lake shipping during the year of 1885, just published, show that sixty vessels were lost during the years involving a loss of \$1,016,200. Of these, twenty-two were steam and thirty-eight sailing vessels. Twenty-two went ashore and grounded to pieces, nineteen were destroyed by fire, fourteen foundered, four capsized, and were broken up by seas, and one was blown into splinters by the explosion of her boilers. Twenty-five were wrecked on Lake Michigan, ten on Lake Huron, six on Lake Superior.six on Lake Erie, and thirteen on Lake Ontario. In these disasters seventy four lives were lost. The most notable disaster was the wreck of the Algoma at Isle Royal, Lake Superior, on November 7, by which forty-eight lives were lost.

THE Penobscot tribe of Indians in Maine have a representative in the State legislature to look after their interests, but he is not entitled to vote. The Indians number 500 and do not desire full citizenship.

A MAN in Stewart county, Ga., recently found on his place a gourd four feet six inches long and about as broad. He hollowed it out, put rockers on it, and now it serves as a cradle for his baby.

heria by sucking it away.

THE TREASURY

First Annual Report of Secretary Manning.

Receipts and Expenditures-Silver and Tariff Questions.

The annual report of the secretary of the reasury embraces fifty-eight pages of printed matter, and is accompanied by a special report of fifty-six pages on the collection of The ordinary revenues of the government for the fiscal year 1885 were \$323,690,706, and

the ordinary expenditures (including sinking fund, \$45,604,035) were \$305,830,970, leaving a surplus of \$17,859,735. As compared with preceding year there was a decrease of \$24,829,163 in revenue and an increase of \$16,100,690 in expenditures.

The estimated revenues of the year 1886 are \$315,000,000, and the estimated expenditures, including sinking fund \$290,750,000. For the

year 1877, however, the secretary estimates that there will be a deficit of \$24,589,552, the revenue remaining at \$315,000,000 and the expenditures reaching \$339,589,552.

Of this estimated increase of \$49,000,000 in expenditures, \$19,000,000 is for pensions, \$15,000,000 for the navy, and \$4,000,000 for fortifications. The interest bearing debt has been reduced during the fiscal year \$10,369,750, and now stands at \$1,260,778,162, including the Pacific Railroad bonds (\$64,623,512). The balance in the treasury of assets over liabilities has been increased \$58,053,702 since March 1, 1885, of which \$36,000,000 is silver coin, \$16,000,000 cold as in and \$0,000,000 local tander notes.

gold coin, and \$9,000,000 legal tender notes. Eighteen pages of the secretary's report are given to a theoretical and historical discussion of the silver question. The secretary argues that the continued coinage of silver dollars by arbitrary purchases of bullion without reference to the public demand for such dollars must eventually make the United States a silver mono-metallic nation, and put us out of harmony with the commer-cial world, and tend to defeat international bi-metalism. He opposes the project for making a heavier dollar, since that would also

operate against international bi-metalism by carrying us further away from the European ratio, and because the adoption of a new ratio would involve the coining of more dollars, whereas we have more than enough already. Stoppage of the coinage, in the secretary's opinion, is the effectual and only remedy for the evils existing and threatened. On the subject of reform in taxation the secretary says:
"Beside the reforms which are desirable for the effective administration of any system of taxation levied through imported merchan-

dise, and are indispensable for the adminis-tration of custom laws, which, like our own, are a chaos rather than a system, I venture to hope that in due season it will be the pleasure of Congress to consider some other re-forms, upon which, as is requisite, all parties may agree and that are of a different scope. Like our currency laws, our tariff laws are a legacy of war. If exigencies excuse their origin, their defects are unnecessary after twenty years of peace. They have been re-tained without sifting and discrimination, although enacted without legislative debate, crit-icism or examination. A horizontal reduction of ten per cent. was made in 1872, but was repealed in 1875 and rejected in 1884. They require at our custom houses the employmen of a force sufficient to examine, appraise, and levy duties upon more than 4,182 different articles. Many rates of duty begun in war have been increased since, although the late tariff commission declared them 'injurious to the interests supposed to be benefited,' and said that a 'reduction would be conducive to the general prosperity.' They have been retained, although the long era of falling prices, in the case of specific duties, has operated a large increase of rates. They have been retained at an average ad valorem rate for the last year of over forty-six per cent., which is but two and a half per cent. less than the highest rate of the war period, and is nearly four per cent. more than the rate before the "depredations upon public timber are universal, flagrant and limitless," and declares that wise and speedy measures should be adopted internal taxes upon almost every taxable article, have in most cases been retained now from fourteen to twenty years after such internal tax has been removed. They have been retained while purely revenue duties upon articles not competing with anything produced in the thirty-eight States have been discarded. They have been retained upon articles used as materials for our own manufactures (in 1884 adding \$30,000,000 to their cost) which, if exported, compete in other countries against similar manufactures from untaxed materials. Some rates have been re-

tained after ruining the industries they were meant to advantage. Other rates have been retained after affecting a higher price for a demestic product at home than it was sold abroad for. The general high level of rates has been retained on the theory of countervailing lower wages abroad, when, in fact, the higher wages of American labor are at once the secret and the security of our capacity to distance all competition from 'pau-per labor' in any market. All changes have left unchanged, or changed for the worse, by new schemes of classification and otherwise, a complicated, cumbrous, intricate group of laws which are not capable of being adminis-tered with impartiality to all our merchants. As nothing in the ordinary course of business is imported unless the price here of the domestic, as well as the imported, article is higher by the amount of the duty and the cost of sea-transit than the price abroad, the preference of the taxpayer for duties upon articles not produced in the United States is justified by the fact that such duties cost him no more than the treasury of his country gets. As for duties affecting articles that are also produced in the United States, the first-to be safely discarded are those, upon materials used by our own manufactures, which now subject them to a hopeless competition at home and abroad, with the manufacturing nations, none of which taxes raw materials. It is not to be doubted that in any reform which shall finally receive the approval of the two houses of Congress, they will maturely consider and favorably regard the interests which can only gradually and carefully be adjusted, without loss, to changes in the leg-islative conditions for their advancing pros-

operation in the improvement of our fiscal policy, and the replies received will hereaf-ter be submitted to the consideration of Congress.

some 2,000 circular letters to our manufac-

turers and merchants, their enlightened co-

With this view, I have invited in

LIFE-SAVING SERVICE. The usual beneficent results have attended the operations of this service during the year. The number of stations in commission at the close of the year was 203. The number of disasters to documented vessels reported by the district officers to have occurred within their field of action is 256. The number of persons on board these vessels was 2,206, of whom 2,196 were saved and ten lost. The value of the property involved is estimated at \$4,604,455, of which \$3,352,760 was saved and \$1,251,695 lost. The number of vessels totally lost was fifty-six. There were beside 115 disasters to smaller craft, such as sailboats, rowboats, etc., on which were 233 persons, 232 of whom were saved and one lost. The value of property involved in these minor disasters was \$29,925, of which \$26,823 was saved and \$3,102 lost.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

During the last year work has been in progress upon forty-nine buildings, under the direction of the supervising architect. Congress at its last session authorized the erection of, and made appropriation for, thirty-one new buildings in various parts of the country, making, practically eighty new buildings, ranging in cost of construction from \$25,000 to \$1,500,000, upon which preparatory or active work of construction has been prosecuted. The total expenditures during the year upon new buildings, including sites, aggregate \$1,438,709.94; for repairs and preservation of public buildings, \$175,-004.39; for heating apparatus and repairs to same, elevators, vaults, safes, locks, storage of silver dollars, etc., \$199,860.74.

TALL SHANTER, the six-foot Navajo Indian chief who called on the President the other day, is handsome, wears high-heeled boots and clothing of the latest fashionable cut and has his hair put up in a French twist, giving him a rather effeminate look.

GENERAL GRANT and Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal church, were first cousins. The bishop's father and the general's mother were brother and sister, Their father and mother were Irish, from County Tyrone.

DR. ALBERT THOMPSON, a young Irish physician, has been presented with the Albert medal for removing poison in a case of diphwhich seated Alfonso on the throne